



How to change  
serpentine belt on **BMW**  
**3 Coupe (E46)** –  
replacement guide

## SIMILAR VIDEO TUTORIAL



This video shows the replacement procedure of a similar car part on another vehicle

### Important!

This replacement procedure can be used for:

BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 323Ci 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 328Ci 2.8, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 320Ci 2.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330xi 3.0, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 320Ci 2.2, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 325Ci 2.5, BMW 3 Coupe (E46) 330Ci 3.0

The steps may slightly vary depending on the car design.

This tutorial was created based on the replacement procedure for a similar car part on: BMW 5 Saloon (E39) 520i 2.0

## REPLACEMENT: SERPENTINE BELT – BMW 3 COUPE (E46). TOOLS YOU'LL NEED:



- Combination spanner #13
- Combination spanner #32
- Drive socket # 16
- Ratchet wrench
- Torque wrench
- Fender cover

[Buy tools](#)

Replacement: serpentine belt – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). AUTODOC recommends:

- All work should be done with the engine stopped.

## REPLACEMENT: SERPENTINE BELT – BMW 3 COUPE (E46). USE THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURE:

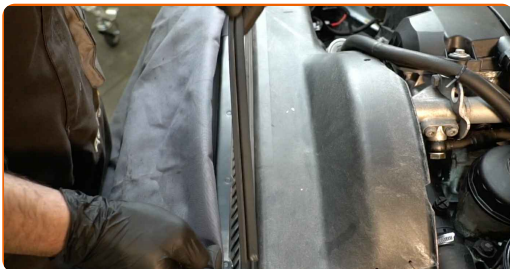
1 Open the bonnet.

2 Use a fender protection cover to prevent damaging paintwork and plastic parts of the car.

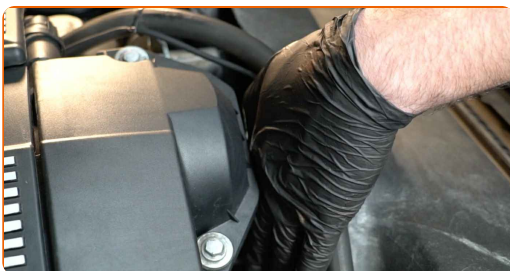
3 Unscrew the fastener of the viscous fan clutch. Use a combination spanner #32.



4 Remove the fan shroud seal.



5 Unscrew and remove the viscous fan clutch.



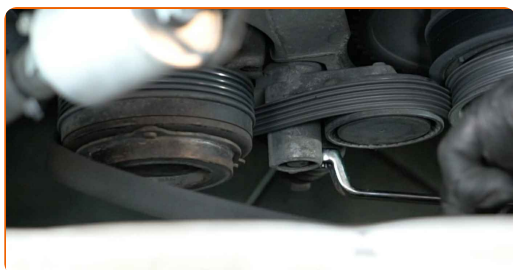
**6** Remove the fan shroud.



**7** Pull aside the AC compressor belt tensioner pulley. Use a combination spanner #13.



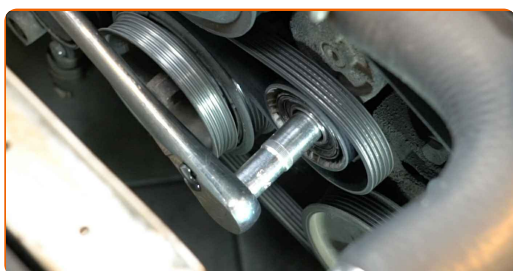
**8** Remove the AC compressor belt.



**9** Remove the tensioner pulley cap.



**10** Pull aside the V-ribbed belt tensioner pulley. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



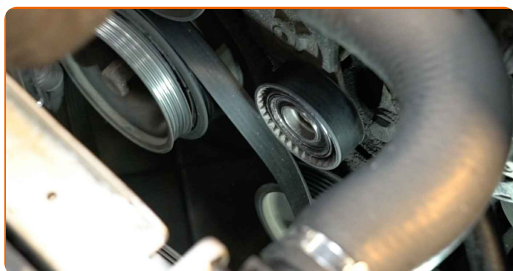
11

Remove the V-ribbed belt.



12

Return the tensioner pulley to its initial position. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



Replacement: serpentine belt – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Professionals recommend:

- Check the condition of the tensioner pulley and idler pulley. Replace them if necessary.

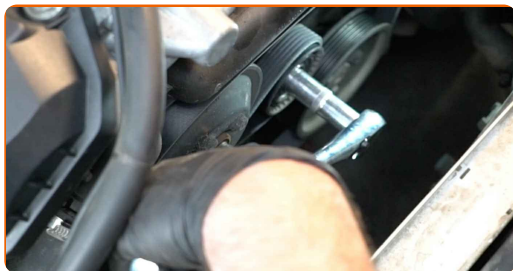
13

Pull aside the V-ribbed belt tensioner pulley. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



14

Install the V-ribbed belt.

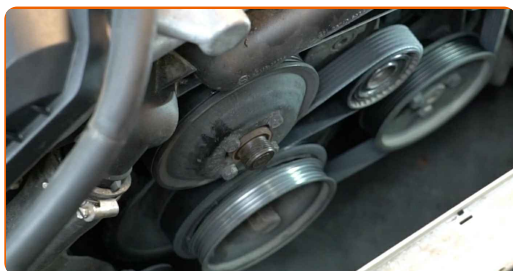


Replacement: serpentine belt – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip from AUTODOC:

- Make sure that the V-ribbed belt fits all pulleys snugly.

15

Return the tensioner pulley to its initial position. Use a drive socket #16. Use a ratchet wrench.



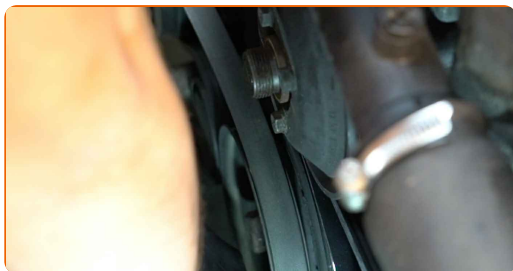
16

Reinstall the tensioner pulley cap.



17

Install the AC compressor belt.



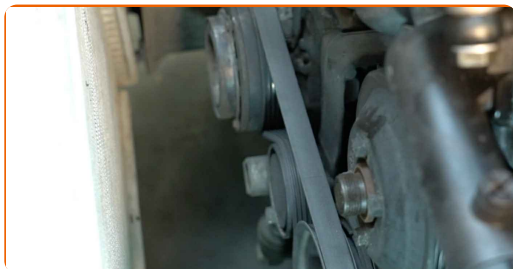


## Replacement: serpentine belt – BMW 3 Coupe (E46). Tip:

- Make sure that the V-ribbed belt fits all pulleys snugly.

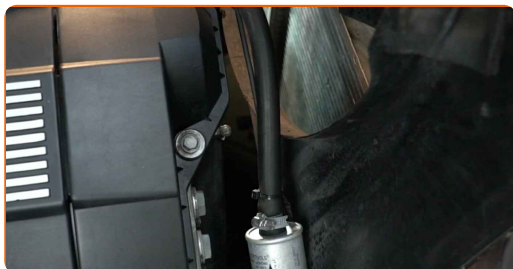
18

Return the tensioner pulley to its initial position. Use a combination spanner #13.



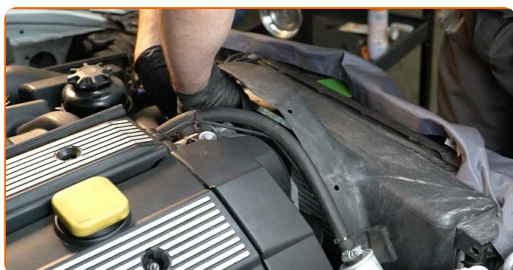
19

Install the fan shroud.



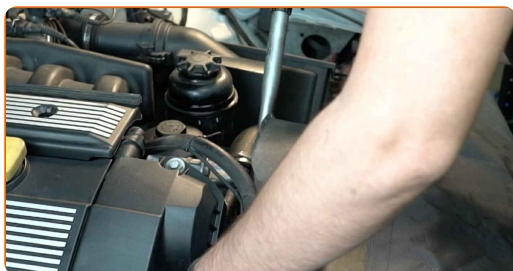
20

Install and screw in the viscous fan clutch.



21

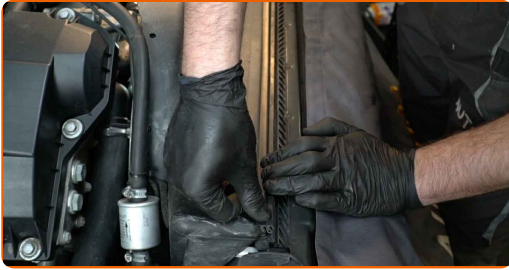
Tighten the fastener of the viscous fan clutch. Use a combination spanner #32. Use a torque wrench. Tighten it to 40 nm torque.





**22**

Reinstall the fan shroud seal.

**23**

Remove the fender protection cover.

**24**

Close the hood.

**WELL DONE!** **[VIEW MORE TUTORIALS](#)**

## AUTODOC – TOP QUALITY AND AFFORDABLE CAR PARTS ONLINE

**AUTODOC MOBILE APP: GREAT DEALS AND CONVENIENT SHOPPING**





 GET IT ON  
Google Play

 Download on the  
App Store

**Download**

**A GREAT SELECTION OF SPARE PARTS FOR YOUR CAR**

**SERPENTINE BELT: A WIDE SELECTION**

### **DISCLAIMER:**

The document contains only general recommendations that may be useful for you when you perform repair or replacement work. AUTODOC shall not be liable for any loss, injury, damage of property occurring in the repair or replacement process due to incorrect use or misinterpretation of the provided information.

AUTODOC shall not be liable for any possible mistakes and uncertainties in this guide. The information provided is for information purposes only and cannot replace advice from specialists.

AUTODOC shall not be liable for incorrect or hazardous usage of equipment, tools and car parts. AUTODOC strongly recommends to be careful and observe the safety rules when performing repair or replacement works. Remember: usage of low quality auto parts does not guarantee you the appropriate level of road safety.

© Copyright 2023 – All the contents of this website, in particular texts, photographs and graphics, are protected by copyright. All rights, including reproduction, publication, editing and translation rights, are reserved by AUTODOC SE.